



# Opening Doors, Changing Lives

DIVISION OF MENTAL RETARDATION SERVICES

Vol. 5, No. 2

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Up, Up and Away

## William Thrilled With Latest Experience

**Sandra Clamp, CNF Valued Day Project**

It was up, up and away for William on Friday, November 3rd. As a result of Dianna Max (William's ISC) coordinating the details, Ben Baker (Pilot and Owner) of Baker Flying Services in Covington, TN, generously agreed to expand William's experiences to include a ride in his six-seater passenger airplane.

William, Toby Ambrose (William's Support Staff), Bernice Robinson (William's Advocate), Dianna, and I (Sandra Clamp, William's CNF) met Ben at his business next to the Covington Airport.

William wasted no time walking around the sheds and admiring the planes. He touched the propellers, looked in the windows, stood by the wings and tucked each inch of the plane into his memory.

With big smiles, he strolled the grounds, listening to the roar of a crop dusting plane over head and watching as Ben did a practice run near the hanger. A couple of times, William said "go" to us - anticipating his first plane ride.



*William says "thanks" for the plane ride.*

Then Ben flew in on one of his smaller dusting planes...here's where the fun really begins! William, along with the rest of us, became singularly focused on the small yellow plane.

Ben introduced himself to William and us and then headed off to get the six-seater. William watched as Ben drove to get the plane. Hearing the motor wind up for take-off, William looked to the distant Airport where it was sitting.

As Ben drove the plane to where

we were waiting, William's anticipation grew to a readiness as he walked towards the plane. He was ready - more ready than the rest of us travelers!

Ben opened the door, and without hesitation, William stepped in to the tiny opening. We sat, buckled up, and looked around as the plane turned to head towards the runway. William sat quietly, listening as we described the ride. He was very still, and his eyes were fixed ahead.

The plane moved slowly, like a big car riding down a long paved highway. William's eyes were wide and his mouth slightly open as he listened and felt the air move in around us...the plane was lifting off! The feeling of the air pressed around our bodies, and we were in flight.

For the first time in William's life, he was up above the trees and flying high! His shoulders eased back, his eyes closed, and he leaned back in his seat - William was relaxed and comfortable. Toby and I pointed out the trees and water, and William listened, looking out the window and taking in each site.

From high in the sky, William had his first look at Fort Pillow Park in

*cont. on back*

### WEB POSTINGS

Announcements, draft policies, final policies and information bulletins all appear on our Web site. Recent activities include:

#### FINAL POLICIES

POLICY NUMBER	POLICY TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	EFFECTIVE DATE
DMRS-2000-71 Revised	Life Sustaining Treatment	Dwan Allen	2/2/01

#### INFORMATION BULLETINS

BULLETIN NUMBER	BULLETIN TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	DATE ISSUED
01-01	Abuse Registry	Dennis Beard	1/3/01
01-02	Cold Weather Alert: Prevent/Treat Hypothermia	Phil Akers	1/17/01
01-03	Detecting Acute Chronic Illness/Injury in Elderly	Phil Akers	1/17/01
01-04	Children, Family & Friends Visiting Staff in Workplace	Doug Burroughs	1/29/01

# William's Latest Experience cont. from front

Ripley, looking down on a historic battle site where cannons and fort tents were standing as reminders of the past.

Heading towards the Mississippi River, the plane took a slight dip (as Bernice took the pilot's wheel with guidance from Ben) - at this point William, Toby, and I felt the rush in our stomachs and we each gasped slightly as the air escaped us.

We circled the River and gazed at the fisherman - William kept his sights on the window, looking intently at the motion in the water below. The plane

headed back towards the runway, and suddenly Ben kicked in the gas as we flew across the tops of the trees. William sat confidently and contentedly.

As we drew near the runway, we all were growing ready to exit the tiny plane. The plane landed and William listened as we pointed out familiar sights below....Dianna and the vehicles and the other planes. William looked out the window and waved at Dianna, smiling at his new experience!

Ben stopped the plane and opened the door, and William jumped up and climbed out. With his gentleman style, William reached out and shook Ben's hand, saying "thank you" for the flight.

Up, Up and Away....and back in one day! And in the words of William, this new experience was quaintly described as the following: How did flying feel for you? William replied, "High"!



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Division of  
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Services

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The Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is committed to principles of equal opportunity, equal access, and affirmative action. Contact the department's EEO/AA Coordinator at (615) 532-6580, the Title VI Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 or the ADA Coordinator at (615) 532-6700 for further information. Persons with hearing impairments call (615) 532-6612.



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# Conferences

## April 29 - May 1, 2001 Strength in Numbers Governmental Affairs/ Public Policy Seminar

Grand Hyatt Hotel  
Washington, DC  
For More Information Call  
(800) 424-3688

## May 29 - June 2, 2001 AAMR's 125<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting

Adams Mark Hotel  
Denver, Colorado  
For More Information Call  
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## Toll Free Lines For Complaints or Information, Call

Central Office-Nashville	1-800-535-9725
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## Web Site

Commission on Compliance/  
Division of Mental Retardation  
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<http://www.state.tn.us/mental2/>

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